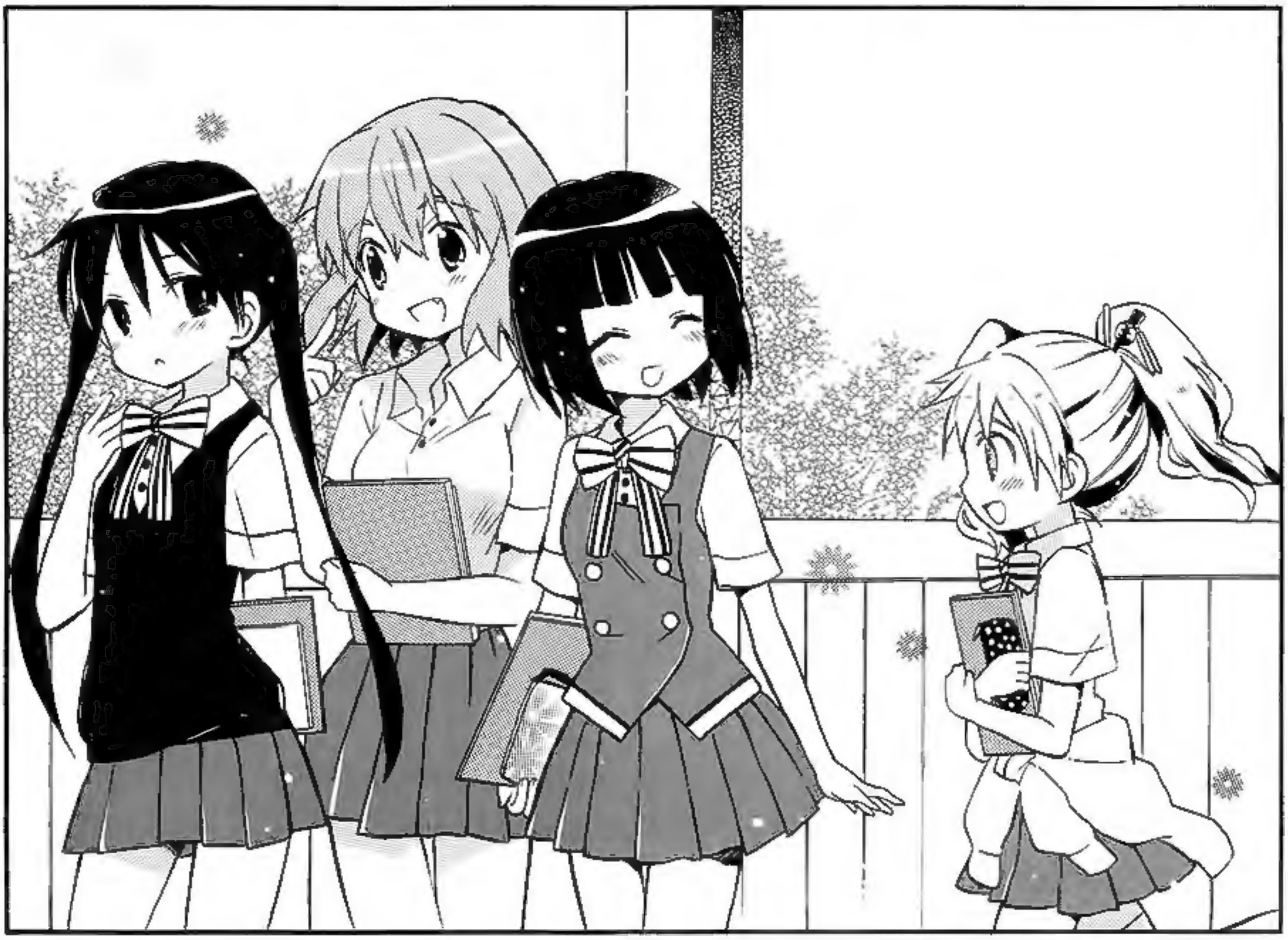
SO YOU'RE SEEING IF IT WILL COOL THE WEATHER DOWN, HUH?
Ah!
YOU KNOW HOW YOU BLOW ON ODEN AND STUFF TO COOL IT DOWN SO YOU CAN EAT IT? IT'S LIKE THAT.

PFFFF
PFFFF

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
Mornin'!
PFFF
PFFF

CHIRP
CHIRP
Pfff...
ARE YOU OUT OF BREATH, ALICE?



MAYBE WE JUST NOTICE THEM A LITTLE BIT MORE WITH ALICE BEING HERE...

IS IT ME, OR ARE THERE A LOT OF FOREIGN PEOPLE AROUND LATELY?

I HATE IT WHEN IT GETS THIS HOT...

WAFT WAFT

COULD YOU TELL ME MORE? I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

It just came back to me!

Wah!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I MET A BLONDE-HAIRED GIRL AROUND HERE THE OTHER DAY...

YOU'VE GOT IT A BIT WRONG THERE...

IF YOU CLEAR YOUR HEAD OF THOUGHTS, I'M SURE YOU WON'T FEEL THE HEAT AS MUCH...

HMM...

SHE WASN'T VERY TALL EITHER, COME TO THINK OF IT...

LET'S SEE, SHE HAD LONG BLONDE HAIR, AND PALE EYES...

I THINK SHE WAS WEARING A PARKA.

AH, I SEE...

THE SAYING IS ACTUALLY, "IF YOU CLEAR YOUR HEAD OF THOUGHTS, YOU'LL FIND EVEN FIRE BECOMES COOL."

WAIT, ISN'T THAT HER?!

Ah, yes!

SHE LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE THIS!

FSSHHH

CALM DOWN, ALICE!

F-Fire?!

MY NAME IS KUJOU KAREN.

SHE'S WEARING OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM.

!

WELL, SHE DID SAY SHE'S HALF JAPA-NESE.

WAIT, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THIS IS THE FRIEND FROM THE PHOTO ALICE SHOWED US, DO YOU?

AH!

ALICE!

HOW COME YOU'RE HERE IN JAPAN KAREN?! YOU EVEN HAVE OUR UNIFORM ON!

IT'S YOU!

IT'S REALLY YOU! ♡

KYAA!!

WHA? KAREN?!

I'M NOT ASKING *HOW* YOU TRAVELED HERE!

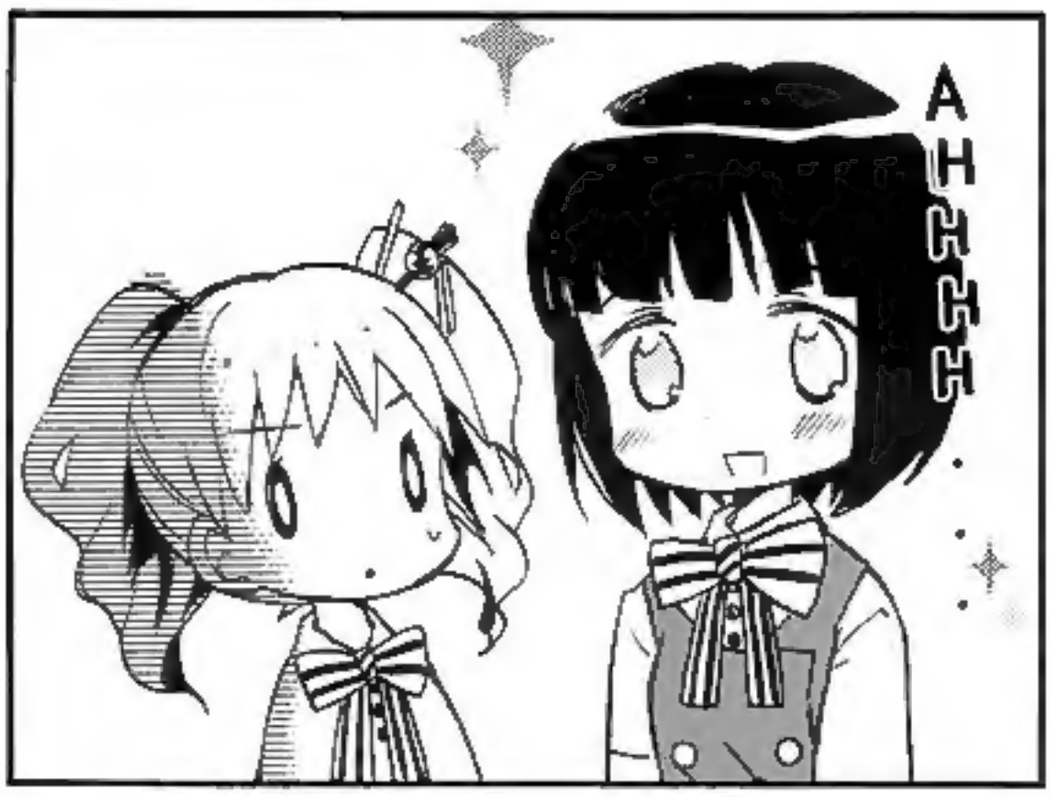
I CAME BY PLANE!

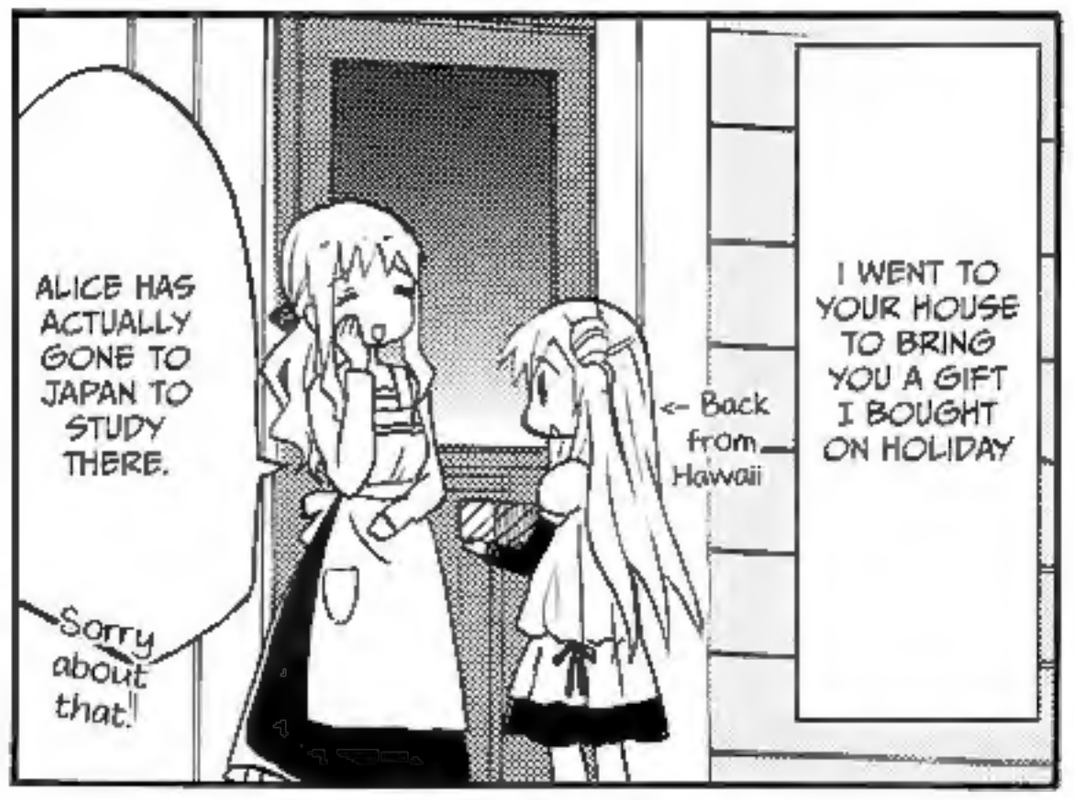
WHOOSH! WHOOSH!

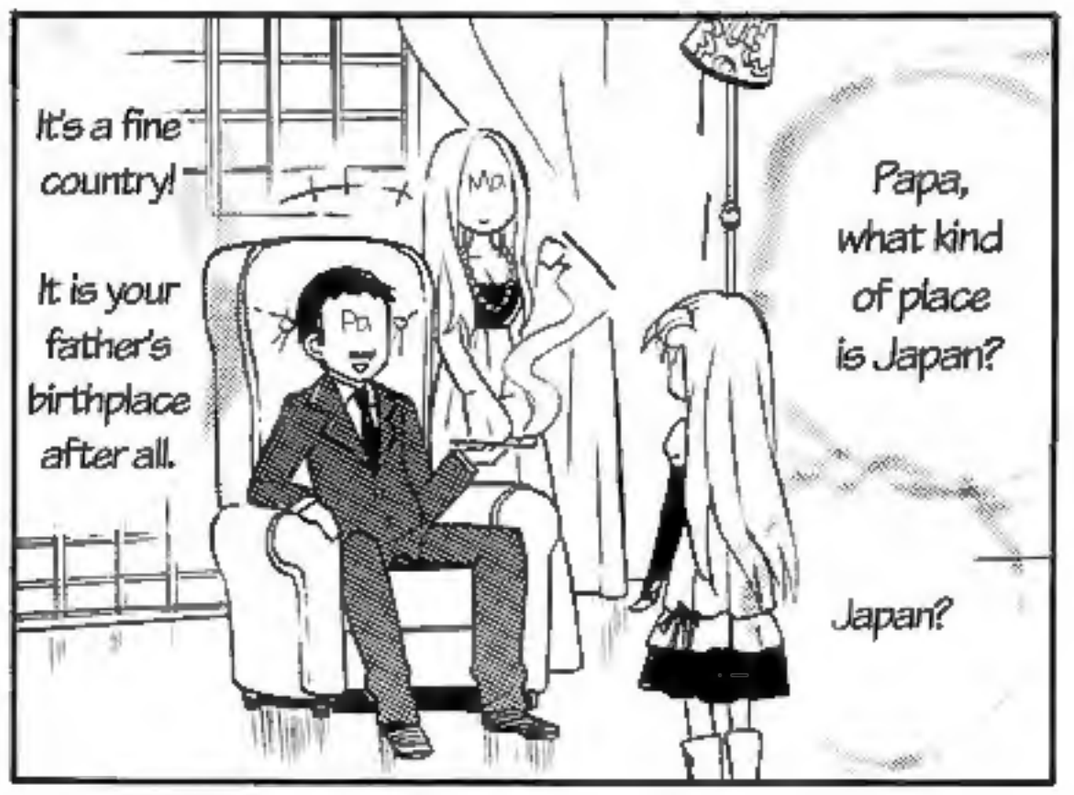
SHE'S NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, SHINO!

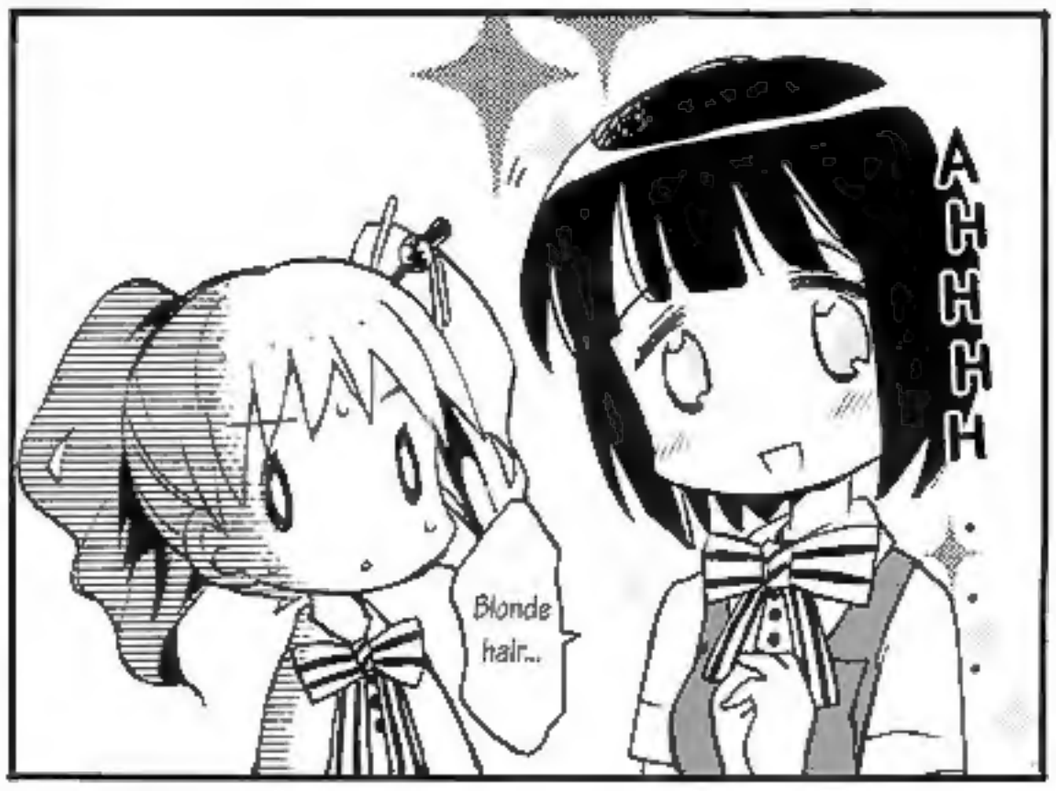
GYUU!

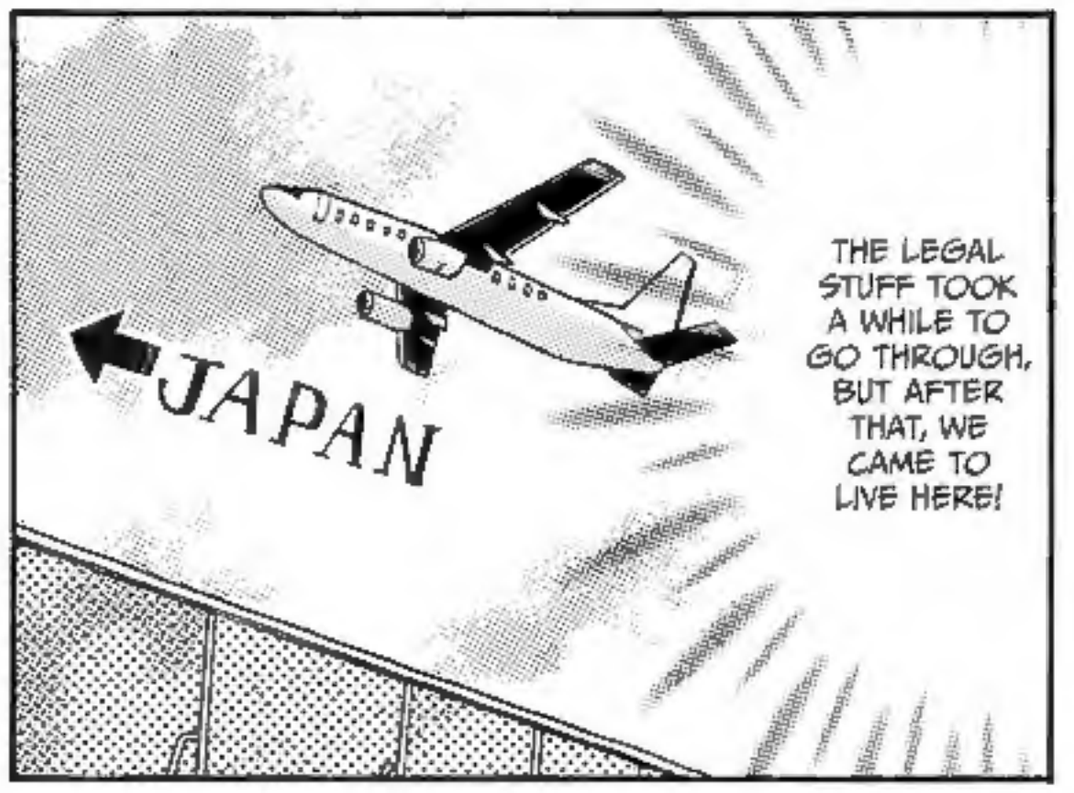
WHO ARE YOU?




ALICE HAS ACTUALLY GONE TO JAPAN TO STUDY THERE.
Sorry about that!
<- Back from Hawaii
I WENT TO YOUR HOUSE TO BRING YOU A GIFT I BOUGHT ON HOLIDAY







PS: Karen's family is rich.

Lunchtime...

I DID MY BEST TO PRACTICE EVERY DAY!

YOUR JAPANESE IS VERY GOOD, KAREN!

Alice!

CLASS A

LET'S GO AND KEEP HER COMPANY AT LUNCH-TIME.

SUCH A SHAME THAT KAREN ENDED UP IN THE CLASS NEXT DOOR, HUH?

CLASS B

YES!

PAPA ALWAYS SPOKE IN ENGLISH BACK AT HOME.

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HALF-JAPANESE, YOU SOUND A BIT ODD WHEN YOU SPEAK.

DID YOU GROW UP OVER IN ENGLAND, KAREN?

IT'S FINE, I'M OKAY...

Hm?

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG ALICE? YOU SEEM A BIT DOWN.

IT'S FINE! THE WAY YOU TALK IS *CUTE!*

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME AS GOOD AS ALICE AT SPEAKING JAPANESE.

ALICE?

WHOA, THAT SOUNDS TOTALLY FORCED!

HEHE!

I STILL HAVE FAR TO GO! JAPANESE IS VERY DIFFICULT LANGUAGE!

HUH?!

WHY DO YOU HAVE FRESH VEG-ETA-BLES?!

IS IT THE HEAT?! HERE, SUMMER VEGETABLES WILL FIX YOU UP!

Her lunch

AND, UH...
SHINO,
YOUKO,
I'M AYA.

PAPA WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE ME MY NAME!
Like Lisa, or Naomi.
SINCE YOU'RE HALF JAPANESE, YOUR NAME IS ONE OF THOSE THAT PASSES AS EITHER A NATIVE NAME OR A FOREIGN ONE, HUH?

THAT'S ONE 'YA' TOO MANY. IT'S JUST 'AYA'.
AYAYA?

THAT'S A LOVELY NAME.
It's very difficult to write.
IN KANJI, "KAREN" IS WRITTEN AS IN THE WORD FOR "CUTE", LIKE A CUTE FLOWER!

AYAYA!
YAY!
AYAYA!

WHAT ABOUT ME THEN, SHINO?
Surely!
HE WANTED YOU TO GROW UP TO BE A CUTE GIRL!
I'M SURE THAT'S WHY HE CHOSE THAT NAME!

N-NO... PLEASE STOP...
Bully mode
AYAYA!
AYAYA!

NO, SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE HERE.
Alice isn't even half Japanese to begin with...
Ah, I see...
YOU WERE NAMED AFTER A SQUIRREL SO YOU'D GROW UP SMALL AND CUTE!

I HAVE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Eh?

WHAT'S WRONG, ALICE?

YOU'VE CHANGED ALL OF A SUDDEN.

THAT'S WHAT MY FRIENDS CALL ME.

HUH?!

!!

PLEASE CALL ME "SHINO"!

YOU THINK SO?

!!

WHAP!

ALICE IS JUST FEELING JEALOUS TOWARDS KAREN!

AH, YOU MUST BE THINKING OF SHINOBI.

AH... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...

ARE YOU A NINJA, SHINO? CAN YOU WALK UP WALLS?

GLOOM...

AND SHE DOES HAVE A BIT MORE OF A "FOREIGN PERSON" VIBE THAN YOU...

(Especially, with the way she speaks)

SURE, KAREN IS A BIT CLOSER TO AVERAGE HEIGHT,

SHINO IS AMAZING! SHE CAN DO ANYTHING SHE WANTS!

Eh?

AW, SO YOU CAN'T?

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HELPING, SHINO...

You need to believe in yourself!

FLEX

BUT YOU STILL HAVE YOUR OWN CHARMS!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT!

GO ON, SHOW HER YOU CAN! GO AND WALK UP A WALL!

AH WELL, WE'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN.

MY HOUSE IS THIS WAY.

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

And I really wanted to meet Shino again...

The real motive

I'M SORRY FOR MOVING TO JAPAN WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING TO YOU, KAREN.

I JUST REALLY WANTED TO COME HERE TO STUDY.

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

THAT'S WHY I FOLLOWED YOU HERE TO JAPAN.

I STILL HAVE A PROMISE TO FULFILL FROM WHEN WE WERE SMALL...

KAREN!

WHOA!

SHE'S A FOR-EIGNER!

SHE'S A REAL FOR-EIGNER!

A PROM-ISE?

THAT'S RIGHT.

UNDERSTOOD.

Ah!

REALLY!

HERE IN JAPAN, PEOPLE SIMPLY SHAKE HANDS AND SAY GOOD BYE!

ALICE...

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN OVER A PENCIL?!

PAT...

I WANTED TO RETURN THAT PENCIL I BORROWED FROM YOU WAY BACK THEN.

FAVORITE PROVERBS.

notes

KINIRO MOSAIC 03

Page 2, panel 2 and 3
The actual saying is 心頭滅却すれば火も涼しよ, with the first four kanji being pronounced "シントウメッキャク". Alice mispronounces it as "シントウヌッキャク", with the joke being that メ and ヌ are visually similar.

Page 6, panel 4
Squirrel in Japanese is "risu", and Alice's name in Japanese would be pronounced "Arisu".

Page 7, panel 2
忍ぶ (shinobu) is an archaic word meaning to hide or conceal oneself, and is pretty much only associated with ninjas these days. Think of that arcade game series that Sega released in the eighties.

Page 9, panel 1
Obscure buddhist four-character proverbs.
Alice's is "報恩謝徳", and Karen's is "愉快適悦".

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